



Brian Schweitzer  
Governor

## OFFICE OF THE APPELLATE DEFENDER STATE OF MONTANA

Joslyn Hunt  
Chief Appellate Defender

October 24, 2011

To: Montana Public Defender Commission

From: Joslyn Hunt, Chief Appellate Defender

RE: Report to the Commission

### **UPDATES:**

Caseloads: The office continues to see an upward trend in case growth. Of new interest, we are seeing a growth in postconviction appointments as well. Postconviction cases can span years, so the impact these cases will have on the budget remains to be seen.

Staffing: The office is recruiting again. Shiloh Hernandez accepted employment with an environmental group in Helena. His departure marks the second in the last two months for the appellate office. I projected the office would continue to have turnover at the last legislative session, and unfortunately, my prediction is coming true. Shiloh was a wonderful addition to our team, and he will be greatly missed. The posting for his job closed on Tuesday, October 11. I am in the process of reviewing applications and conducting interviews.

Policies: The policies for the appellate office will be ready for distribution and approval.

Standards: The standards for the appellate office are ready for distribution and approval.

Conference: The OPD annual conference was wonderful. Thanks to Koan Mercer and Jennifer Hurley for the case law update they provided. The "Protecting the Record" presentation I gave was well-attended. People seemed engaged because they were asking a lot of questions.

Congratulations to Chairman Gillespie on his award! And, thank you for your support!

Concerns: None to report at this time.